

# Minutes Tempe Historical Museum Advisory Board February 6, 2014

Minutes of the Tempe Historical Museum Advisory Board recorded as of 4:00 p.m. on February 6, 2014, within the Tempe History Museum Board Room, 809 E. Southern Avenue, Tempe, AZ.

(MEMBERS) Present: City Staff Present:

Shirley McKean Dr. Amy Douglass, Manager, Tempe History Museum

Mary O'Grady Jennifer Wagner

Nikki Gusz <u>Guest(s) Present:</u>

Dr. James Schoenwetter Anne Chandler, Tempe Historical Society Representative

# (MEMBERS) Absent:

none

Meeting convened at 4:00 p.m. Jennifer Wagner, Tempe Historical Museum Advisory Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

### Agenda Item 1: Consideration of the December 5, Meeting Minutes

- Jennifer Wagner, Tempe Historical Museum Advisory Board (Museum Board) Chair, presented the January 9, 2014 Board meeting minutes to the Museum Board members for review and consideration.
- MOTION: Dr. James Schoenwetter moved to approve the January 9, 2014 Board meeting minutes.

SECOND: Shirley McKean seconded.

DECISION: January 9, 2014 Museum Board meeting minutes were approved.

- Jennifer Wagner, Museum Board Chair, presented the January 9, 2014 special meeting minutes to the Museum Board members for review and consideration.
- MOTION: Shirley McKean moved to approve the January 9, 2014 special meeting minutes.

SECOND: Dr. James Schoenwetter seconded.

DECISION: January 9, 2014 special meeting minutes were approved.

### **Agenda Item 2: Communications Report**

There were no communications reported.

# **Agenda Item 3: National Accreditation**

- Amy Douglass gave an update on one of the documents that are required by the American Alliance for Museums (AAM) for accredited institutions.
  - Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Plan: The document draft is being reviewed for missing information; editing and finalizing the document will continue for the next two months.

## Agenda Item 4: Merger of Historical Museum and Library Boards

- Amy Douglass asked the Board members for input and feedback on the proposed merger of the Historical Museum Advisory Board and the Library Advisory Board.
- Shirley McKean stated that she was concerned that the museum's issues and concerns
  would be lost and the museum would be overshadowed by the library. She stated that
  she has no expertise concerning the library and that the two boards require very different
  types of expertise.
- Dr. James Schoenwetter stated that the two boards have different goals and objectives
  that could create tension within a combined board; he felt the City of Tempe would not
  benefit from such a merger; Dr. Schoenwetter stated that he would like to know what
  information went into the decision to merge the two boards; he felt that the process
  should be more transparent.
- Mary O'Grady stated that she initially had a negative reaction to the proposed merger of the two boards; however she also saw potential to reach more people through the merger; the geographic proximity of the two facilities might be a benefit if the library board learns more about the museum.
- Nikki Gusz stated that the future goals of the two institutions may come into alignment.
- Jennifer Wagner stated that she understood the desire upon the part of the City of Tempe to reduce the number of boards and make the boards more robust with broader responsibilities; however, she felt that the crosspollination of ideas could occur with periodic joint board meetings that would not necessitate a permanent merger.

# Agenda Item 5A: Public Programs Representative

- Shirley McKean, Representative of the Public Programs Committee, reported that Nashville recording artist Laura Walsh performed at the museum on January 24<sup>th</sup>. This performance was sponsored by the Tempe Historical Society
- Folk singer Charlie King performed on January 31<sup>st</sup>. He sang songs from the Civil Rights Movement and paid a tribute to Pete Seeger who had died just a few days before the concert. The concert was sponsored by the Maricopa County NAACP, Central Arizona Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, Arizona Institute for Peace Education and Research, and the Arizona Community Media Foundation.
- Bill Staples, Jr. talked at the January 16<sup>th</sup> Third Thursday. He spoke about baseball in the World War II Japanese internment camps on the Gila River Reservation.
- The next Third Thursday will be on February 20<sup>th</sup> and the topic will be Spring Training.

# Agenda Item 5B: Report - Policy, Procedures and Accessions

- Jennifer Wagner, representative on the Policy, Procedures and Accessions Committee (P, P & A) stated that there are currently 13 provisional deposits awaiting a vote.
- Two new provisional deposits were accepted in January for the upcoming exhibit on the Tempe music scene.
- New acquisitions include a military helmet from Arizona Historical Society and a Tempe Police Lieutenant badge from Jeffrey Glover for the Living Together area of the exhibit hall, and various memorabilia for the upcoming exhibit on the Tempe music scene.

### Agenda Item 5C: Report - Tempe Historic Preservation Commission

 Mary O'Grady, Representative to the Tempe Historic Preservation Commission, stated that as far as she was aware the Commission did not meet in January but they will be meeting in February.

## Agenda Item 5D: Report - Tempe Historical Society

- Anne Chandler, Tempe Historical Society (Society) Representative stated that the Tree of Lights program brought in \$1,050 in revenues to support the museum's oral history program. This year, the Society partnered with the Veterans History Project. Next year they also would like to partner with the Friends of the Library to expand the program and potentially bring in more revenue.
- The Society Board held a retreat in January and decided to plan one large event in the spring of 2015. It will be similar to the Hayden's Ferry Days held in the past and will feature activities including music, an antique cars display and possibly a parade.

### Agenda Item 5E: Report - Oral History Program

- Amy Douglass stated that Susan Jensen continues to work on oral history transcription.
   To date she has transcribed 86 oral histories totaling over 1,600 pages. She is beginning to catch up with the backlog.
- Amy Douglass and Josh Roffler, Curator of Collections, interviewed Souphanh
  McNamara, a former princess from Laos who was forced to flee with her two sons when
  the communist regime took over and imprisoned her husband. She eventually
  immigrated to the United States and remarried. She is loaning a costume that she wore
  when meeting with the pretender to the Laotian throne during his recent visit to the
  United States. It will be on display in the Living Together exhibit area.
- Volunteer Jennifer Sweeny continues to catalog oral histories and process all the paperwork necessary to make them available to the public.

### <u>Agenda Item 8 - Board Member Announcements</u>

• There were no announcements.

### Agenda Item 9 - Future Agenda Items

No new agenda items were identified.

The next meeting of the Tempe Historical Museum Advisory Board is scheduled to take place at 4 p.m. on March 6, 2014 in the Tempe History Museum Board Room, 809 E. Southern Avenue, Tempe, AZ, 85282.

# Meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Prepared by: Dr. Amy Douglass, Tempe History Museum Manager

Jennifer Wagner, Chair, Tempe Historical Museum Advisory Board